

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Recognizing the volunteer efforts of individuals and groups is one of the goals of Take Pride in America®, and a key component of the Take Pride in America Act.

In 1988, at the National Award Ceremony, President Reagan said, "Perhaps best of all, there are people...throughout the country, taking pride in America and protecting the abundant majesty of our nation. Throughout our history, caring individuals have bequeathed great parks, forests, wildlife preserves and historic sites to a Nation that love and cherish. And the award winners we recognize today are their moral heirs and successors—individuals, working together and accomplishing great things. That's something America can truly be proud of."

Today we continue to value the efforts of volunteers throughout the country who have become

guardians of public lands. We recognize these guardians and their volunteer efforts through a variety of awards. These include Annual National Awards for outstanding projects and events, recognition by elected officials or a Take Pride in America partner, and special thanks to those who have amassed exceptional hours of volunteer service.



Above: 2003 and 2004 National Award winners, Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado enhanced an ecosystem at Chatfield State Park.

Left: Trash Tracker Program participants return from gathering trash at Glen Canyon National Park in Page, Arizona. They received a 2004 Federal Volunteer Program National Take Pride Award.

"Cooperative conservation is essential to the long-term vitality of our nation's most prized treasure—our public lands."

---Secretary Gale A. Norton

NATIONAL TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA AWARDS

Presented annually, National Awards recognize specific volunteer projects and efforts in a number of different categories. These awards, given for outstanding stewardship of public lands, honor those who best conserve and/or enhance our public parks, forests, grasslands, reservoirs, wildlife refuges, cultural and historical sites, local playgrounds and other recreation areas. For all award categories, nominations must reflect actual, measurable accomplishments achieved through volunteer service. To be eligible, projects must be "on the ground" activities rather than advocacy in any form. Finalists and winners are selected by a panel of reviewers. Winners are honored at an awards ceremony in Washington, D.C.



Interior Secretary Gale A. Norton with 2004 National Award winners Mark Franc and Andrew Cushing from Bountiful City, Utah, along with Desiree Sayle and Marti Allbright. Bountiful City won the Local Government National Award for developing a city recreation area near a pond.

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SPECIAL TAKE PRIDE AWARDS

Governor's Take Pride Appreciation Award

Selected by participating Governors, the Award is presented to a group or individual for a project or program in the state that promotes the goals and mission of Take Pride in America.

Congressional Take Pride Appreciation Award

U.S. Senators and Members of Congress select and present the Award for a project or program in his or her state/district that promotes the goals and mission of Take Pride in America.



Governor Haley Barbour of Mississippi presented a Governor's Take Pride Appreciation Award to the Mississippi Marine Debris Task Force for their work organizing and sponsoring the annual Mississippi Coastal Cleanup.

Take Pride in America Garden Award

Garden Award winners are selected by America the Beautiful Fund and presented to recipients whose gardening ingenuity and creativity encourages community involvement in the spirit of Take Pride in America.



Winners of the 2004 Youth National Award the "Creek Freaks" of Southeastern Natural Sciences Academy tested water samples at the Phinizy Swamp Nature Park in Augusta, Georgia.



Interior Secretary Gale A. Norton presented the Secretarial Take Pride in America Award to Stanley Igawa, a National Park Service VIP, for more than 3,000 hours of volunteer service.

VOLUNTEER SERVICE HOUR RECOGNITION

Take Pride in America recognizes exceptional personal commitments to volunteering, in cooperation with U.S.A. Freedom Corps and Points of Light Foundation.

President's Volunteer Service Award

Take Pride in America, in cooperation with the White House, recognizes individuals who have completed more than 4,000 hours of volunteer service on public lands.

Secretarial Volunteer Service Award

Signed by the Secretary of the Interior, this Award is presented to volunteers with 3,000 or more hours of volunteer stewardship on public lands.

Bureau Volunteer Service Awards

Bureaus participating in Take Pride in America honor individuals who have completed 2,000 hours of service at a federal site, such as a national park, wildlife refuge, grassland, forest or reservoir.

For More Information...

For more information about Take Pride Awards, including the online National Awards application, please visit our Web site at www.TakePride.gov. You may also want to visit the U.S.A. Freedom Corps Web site at www.usafreedomcorps.gov.

If you would like to document your hours of volunteer service on line, please visit the Friends of Take Pride Web site at www.TakePride.info.